

# **EPA Region 9 National Estuary Program CWA §320**

San Francisco Bay-Delta

Morro Bay

Santa Monica Bay

SMBRC Governing Board Meeting  
August 17, 2017

Erica Yelensky, Santa Monica Bay NEP Coordinator  
EPA Region 9

# Discussion Topics

- \* National Estuary Program (NEP) CWA §320
- \* Why Revise the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan?
- \* What does a BRP revision include?
- \* Lessons learned from other NEP Plan revisions
- \* EPA's Role & Expectations

# National Estuary Program

## Community-Based Watershed Management

### \* Origin

- \* Modeled after the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay Programs
- \* 1987 CWA Amendments: Section 320
  - \* Governor nominations: 28 estuaries
  - \* Each forms a management conference, develops plan & implements
  - \* EPA provides financial & technical assistance, & reviews program performance
    - \* Approves CCMP & concurs on revisions

### \* Key Principles

- \* focus on watersheds
- \* integrate science into the decision-making process
- \* foster collaborative problem solving
- \* involve the public

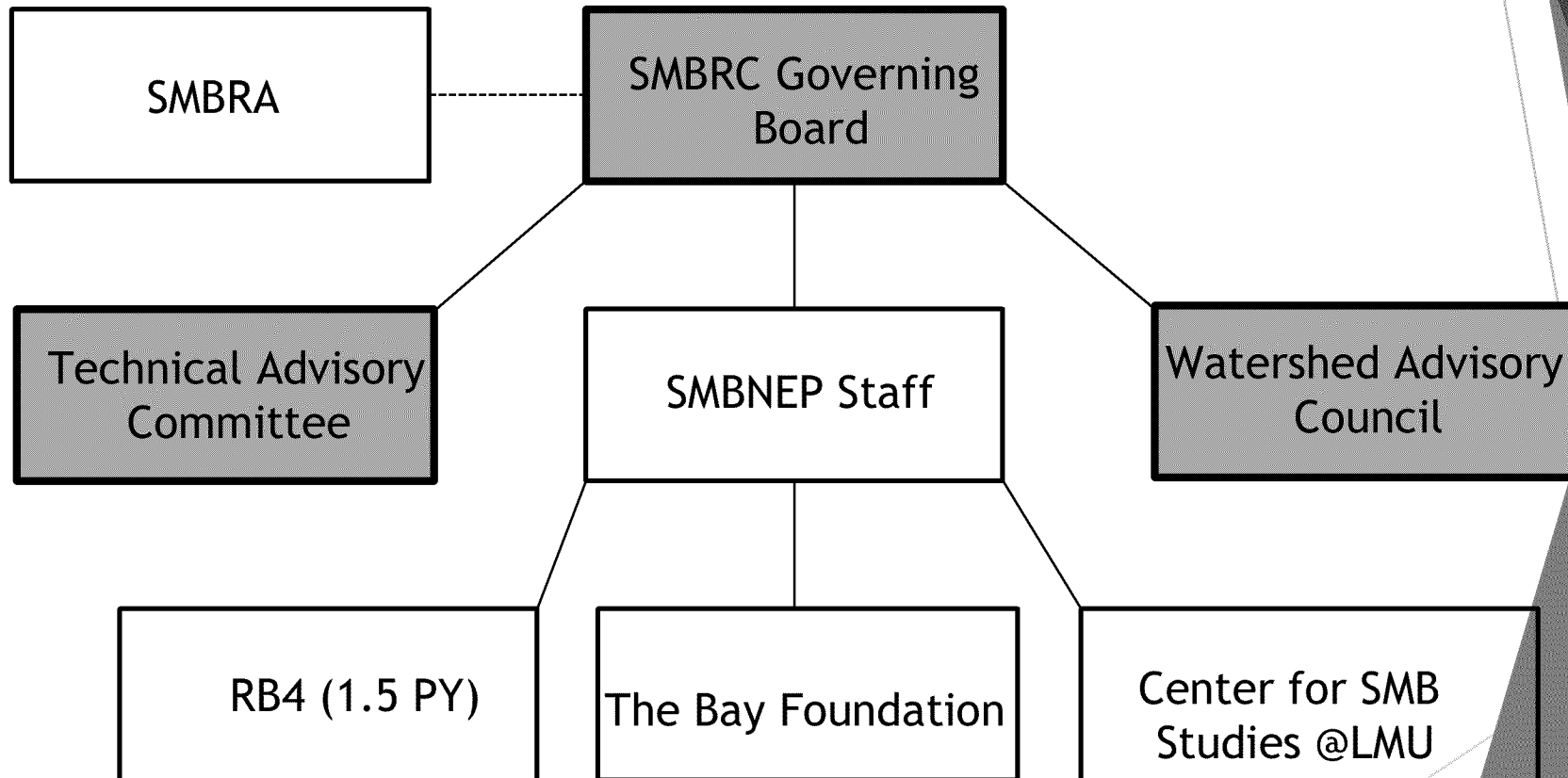
# EPA R9 National Estuary Programs

	SF Estuary	Morro Bay	Santa Monica Bay
<b>Designated</b>	1987	1995	1988
<b>Size</b>	5.2k sq. mi.	94 sq. mi.	2.4k sq. mi.
<b>Host</b>	ABAG	TBFMB	TBF
<b>Staff</b>	12	10	13
<b>Annual Budget</b>	\$35.6m*	\$1.2m*	\$16.4m*
<b>Water Board Support</b>	- RB2 office space - Tom Mumley	- Jennifer Epp	- 1.5 staff - RB4 office space - legal/admin - Jon Bishop
<b>CCMP</b>	2016	2012	2013
<b>HQ Program Review</b>	2015	2015	2014
<b>Director</b>	Caitlin Sweeney	Lexie Bell	<sup>4</sup> Tom Ford

\*CWA §320 national allocation to each NEP = \$600,000



# Santa Monica Bay NEP



# Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plans (CCMP)

- \* CCMP = Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP)
- \* A long-term framework for action
- \* It includes not only plans to manage and restore water quality and habitats, but should also include strategies for:
  - \* effective monitoring and tracking of environmental response to inform adaptive management
  - \* financing plan implementation, and
  - \* outreach and communication with stakeholders

# Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plans (CCMP)

- \* CCMP = Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP)
- \* Plan Updates
  - \* Every 3 - 5 years
  - \* Minor changes as needed
- \* Plan Revision
  - \* Every 10 years
  - \* Significant changes
  - \* Incorporate Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment by the end of FY 2020

# A revised BRP should include

- \* New priorities, goals, objectives, and actions
- \* Actions should indicate:
  - \* lead implementers,
  - \* a timeline and milestones, and
  - \* performance measures
- \* Monitoring approach
- \* Management Conference description
  - \* structure should best support BRP implementation
- \* Finance strategy
- \* Communication/Outreach Strategy
- \* Climate change considerations
- \* Identify changes between existing and revised draft BRP



# Lessons Learned from other NEPs

- \* Focus on fewer actions
  - \* For example, SFEP less than 50 priority actions (down from 200)
- \* 35 year planning horizon with 5 year goals
- \* Build on new key regional plans, policies and initiatives
  - \* Increase coordination and integration
- \* Review and update management conference structure
- \* Build in mechanisms to track progress
- \* Consider online alternatives to a paper plan
- \* Integrate the State of the Bay Report, State of the Bay Conference and the BRP

# Take Home Messages

- \* CCMP = BRP
- \* SMBRC Governing Board Approves BRP
- \* EPA has an oversight & assistance role
  - \* EPA early and ongoing consultation
  - \* No surprises/no problems > final EPA R9 & HQ concurrence
- \* The Plan is yours and we provide support

# Additional Information/Resources

- \* EPA Guidance Documents
  - \* CCMP Content Checklist
  - \* NEP Funding Guidance
- \* EPA SMBNEP Program Evaluation (2014)
- \* See San Francisco Estuary and Tampa Bay CCMPs
- \* EPA Region 9 Contacts
  - \* Erica Yelensky, Santa Monica Bay NEP Coordinator
    - \* yelensky.eric@epa.gov
    - \* (415) 972-3021
  - \* Sam Ziegler, Manager, Watersheds Section
    - \* ziegler.sam@epa.gov
    - \* (415) 972-3399